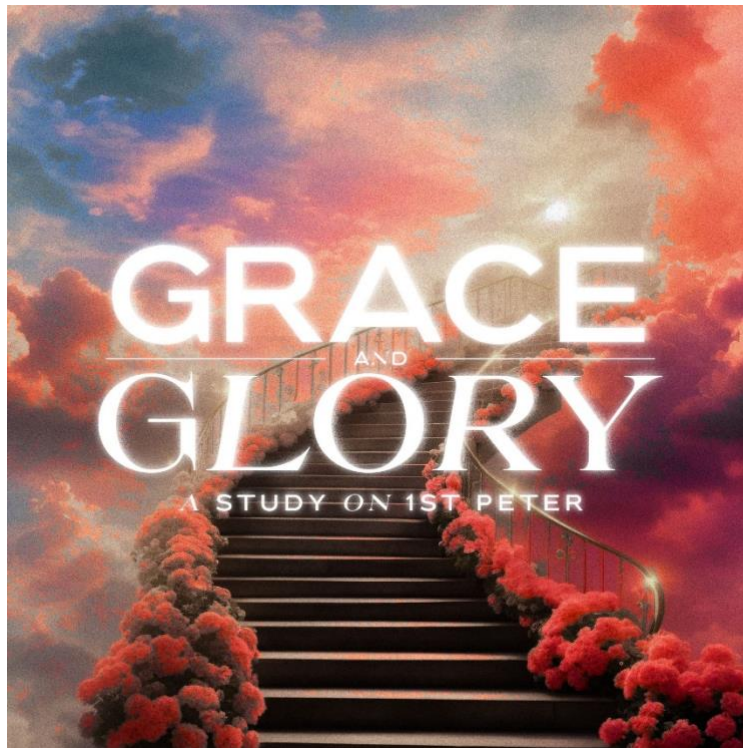


**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
OF ST. CLAIR**



**“No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you’re  
welcome and loved here”**

**300 Adams Street, St. Clair, MI 48079  
810-329-4142**

**[www.firstconggsc.org](http://www.firstconggsc.org)  
[firstconggsc@gmail.com](mailto:firstconggsc@gmail.com)**

# WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

July 6, 2025

Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

† Those who are able, please stand.

**CHIMES**

*Called As Partners In Christ's Service*

† **GATHERING SONG**

*Shout To The Lord*

**WELCOME**

Pastor: Welcome to First Congregational Church of Saint Clair, United Church of Christ where, **People: no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey you're welcome and loved here.**

† **OPENING PRAYER**

Bonnie Landschoot

Leader: Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved!

**People: You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it.**

Leader: Turn again, O God of hosts! Look down from heaven, and see;

**People: Have regard for this vine, the stock that your right hand planted, and for the son whom you made strong for yourself.**

Leader: They have burned it with fire; they have cut it down.

**People: Restore us, O Lord God of Hosts! Let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

† **HYMN**

*Come, O Fount Of Every Blessing  
NC 459 Verses 1,2*

**PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION & ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

**People: Gracious God, we confess there are ways we have been displeasing in your sight, for we have denied your light in us; we have ignored your Holy Spirit in us.**

**For those times we have rejected your way, which weighs upon us, and perhaps moments we do not even know, we ask your forgiveness. Heal our hearts, renew your Spirit within us, and restore in us the image of Christ, that by your grace we may be light**

**for the world. Thank you God for hearing us and by your Grace restoring us. Amen.**

### **EXPRESSION of PEACE**

**Pastor:** The grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you!

**People:** And also with you.

**Pastor:** Extend to each other a sign of Christ's grace and peace.

### **PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

**Leader:** Gracious ever loving and living God, open our minds and hearts to hear your word so powerfully that it transforms us and our trust in your Grace. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

### **FIRST READING**

Psalm 84  
Bonnie Landschoot

**MUSICAL MEDITATION**     *Here I Am Lord*     *Margot Rood*

### **SECOND READING**

1 Peter 5:6-10  
Pastor Julia DiFiore

### **SERMON**

Series: Grace & Glory     Pastor Julia DiFiore  
Week 3 - Restoration and Strength

### **COMMUNION**

### **†HYMN**

*The Church's One Foundation*  
*NC 386 Verses 1,2*

### **JOYS, CONCERNS, AND INVITATION TO PRAY**

**Praying person:** Lord hear our prayer.

**People:** Shower us with your Grace.

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven. Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.**

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

## **OFFERTORY**

*Please place your offering in the box at the back table at your convenience upon entering or leaving. Or use the QR code on the pew by the envelopes.*

## **PRAYER OF BLESSING FOR TITHES & OFFERINGS**

### **†HYMN**

*There's a Wideness In God's Mercy  
NC 23 Verses 1,2*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(Announcements are in the back of this bulletin.)

### **†BENEDICTION**

Pastor: With the help of God may we...

**People: Go forth into the world in peace and be of good cheer, hold fast to that which is good, render to no person evil for evil.**

**Strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak and help the afflicted.**

**Honor God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.**

Pastor: I pray that the Grace of God guides you to fulfill what you have proclaimed, in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit! Amen.

### **Irish Blessing**

sung by Margot Rood  
Bob Chiicott

### **†POSTLUDE**

*We've A Story To Tell To The Nations*



One License #A720797

**PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS...**

The Rice family, Aimee H, Baby Paul, Jackie K, Joe M, David M,  
Carol C, Susan C, Bryce D, Eric F, Matthew P, Ann W.  
Also, remember to pray for all who are serving in the military, first  
responders, medical personnel, and our elected officials.

**7/6/25 – WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

COMMUNION: Nancy Rice

SUNDAY STEWARD: Kathy Cilluffo

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Jacie Sanders

MUSIC: Denise Gregg

USHERS: Dave Scheel, Nikki Sterling

READER: Bonnie Landschoot

POWER POINT: Michael Bruzdowski

**7/13/25 – WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

SUNDAY STEWARD: Don O'Connor

SOUND AND LIVESTREAM: Tim Galvin, Jovanna DiFiore

MUSIC: Denise Gregg

USHERS: Jacie Sander, Deana Currie

READER: Jody Skonieczny

POWER POINT: Kathy Cilluffo

READER 7/20/25 – Jovanna DiFiore

**OPEN AND AFFIRMING INCLUSIVE CHURCH COVENANT**

The members of the First Congregational Church of St. Clair, United  
Church of Christ, declare that we are a fully inclusive, Open and  
Affirming Congregation. We affirm the life and teachings of Jesus  
Christ and believe that all people are children of God. As such, we  
welcome to the community of faith all people of diverse race, physical  
and mental abilities, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital  
status, and socio-economic status. We covenant to provide to all a safe,  
loving, nurturing and compassionate community.

## **~CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS~**

### **CURIOUS ABOUT CHURCH MEMBERSHIP?**

Please let Pastor Julia know ([pastorjuliad@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjuliad@gmail.com)) and she will set up a time to chat. Your questions about the United Church of Christ and this church specifically will be answered.

### **BIBLE STUDY**

Join us for a unique Bible study experience with The Chosen! Each week, we'll watch an episode from the series, followed by scripture and group discussion.

This is more than a show, it's a journey of faith, reflection, and community. Whether you're part of our church, another congregation, or just curious, you're welcome here.

Bring your heart, your questions, and your hopes. Let's grow together as we explore the life of Christ in a deeper, more personal way.

6:00- PJ's Popcorn & Fellowship (Feel free to bring a snack to share!)

6:30- Episode Begins

7:30- Bible Study and Discussion

### **CHOIR**

Choir practice Thursdays, at 7:30 p.m.

### **TAIZ'E**

Taiz'e will return in October.

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Sunday school will be held the 2nd and 4th Sunday each month unless otherwise noted. Sunday school will resume in the fall.

### **MISSIONS**

The Mission Team is requesting volunteers to staff the Ecumenical Food Pantry Tuesdays and Thursdays in June from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. There is a sign up sheet located on the back table in the sanctuary.

The Mission Team at First Congregational Church UCC of St. Clair is thrilled to bring back "Deserving Treats For Our Essential Workers"!

Throughout June, July, and August, we'll be delivering special treats and heartfelt thanks to essential workers across St. Clair County.

Want to help spread the love and gratitude? A sign-up sheet is available just off the sanctuary, or feel free to reach out to Pat O'Connor to get involved.

Let's show our appreciation for those who give so much to our community!

### **HEALTH CARE MINISTRIES**

The Healthcare Ministry Team will resume blood pressure checks during coffee hour following worship on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month.

### **THE LITTLE RED FOOD PANTRY**

This small pantry is a community outreach program sponsored by The Mission Team of this church. It is stocked twice weekly with non-perishable food. Donation requests may change but the need to feed does not.

JULY is bright  
With summer's day light  
And the dark sky sight  
Of fireworks at night.

Not everyone sees  
Sights such as these  
Because hunger can feel  
like a cold breeze.  
See others, please.

JULY food pantry needs  
Canned Green Beans or Corn  
Spaghetti/Spaghetti Sauce  
Peanut Butter  
Mashed Potato Pouches  
Mac & Cheese  
Canned Chicken  
Cereal

JULY  
food pantry extras for summer gatherings  
Chips  
Condiments  
Boxed Pasta Salad

Please leave food donations in the elevator room on one of the shelves labeled LITTLE RED FOOD PANTRY. And please check the expiration date on each food item before leaving it for the pantry.

For questions, please contact Nancy Kennedy (810)329-3790.

## **COFFEE HOUR**

There are several Sundays available to host coffee hour. Please be sure to check out the sign-up sheet on the back table of the sanctuary.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

Do you have something you would like shared to our social media platforms? For any news, events, or stories you'd like to share with our community, please reach out to our Social Media Minister Karl Heilman in person, message our Facebook page or email him at [kheilman84@yahoo.com](mailto:kheilman84@yahoo.com). Let's continue to spread God's love together! Feel free to like, share, and engage with our content as we strive to connect and uplift one another through the power of social media. Check out our Facebook page at [@First Congregational Church UCC of St. Clair](https://www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalChurchUCCofStClair) and our Instagram page at [@firstcong.churchofstclair](https://www.instagram.com/firstcong.churchofstclair).